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Chairperson: Mr. Saleh (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Lebanon)

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In the absence of Ms. Lintonen (Finland), Mr. Saleh (Lebanon), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 59: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/62/188 and A/62/211)

(b) Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/62/73-E/2007/52, A/62/74-E/2007/54, A/62/211, A/62/253 and A/62/326)

(c) South-South cooperation for development (*continued*) (A/62/39 (Supplement No. 39), A/62/155, A/62/211 and A/62/295)

1. **Ms. Silveira** (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), said that it was important to further increase trade between countries of the South. The MERCOSUR countries had expanded technical cooperation with other developing countries thereby playing an important role in strengthening the institutions of such countries for rapid and effective skills transfer.

2. The least developed countries and landlocked developing countries had most benefited from cooperation with MERCOSUR. However, middle-income countries still accounted for nearly two thirds of the world's poor; South-South cooperation had great potential to reduce disparities between the rich and the poor within countries, and to eradicate hunger and poverty through skills transfer. MERCOSUR was prepared to share its experience in national policymaking as well as provide technical and technological assistance to developing countries.

3. South-South cooperation supplemented the assistance committed by developed countries to developing countries. Often, South-South cooperation flows were deducted from total assistance for lack of a universal definition of South-South cooperation, including its conditions, and means for measuring its effectiveness. The South-South cooperation agenda had to be drawn up essentially by countries of the South.

4. It was necessary to re-examine the working methods of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and its Bureau. The holding of one meeting every other year without a clear role for the Committee between sessions was not sufficient. It was also of utmost importance to analyse the implementation of the High-level Committee's decisions by Member States and the Organization. The results of the UNDP evaluation of South-South cooperation should be provided to Member States.

5. The countries of the MERCOSUR welcomed Argentina's proposal to host a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation to review progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action in 2008.

6. **Mr. Labbé** (Chile) said that his delegation attached great importance to the triennial comprehensive policy review and trusted that all concerned parties would demonstrate goodwill and flexibility during the Committee's deliberations.

7. Developing countries had to be able to take advantage of new trends in technical cooperation. While the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries had been a great step forward, it was in urgent need of updating.

8. As a middle-income country, Chile was seeing its assistance from developed countries diminish in favour of developing countries, and thus had more difficulty in consolidating its own progress. It was important for the Committee to consider the situation of middle-income countries, which continued to require active cooperation from developed countries in areas such as innovation, science, technology and worker specialization. Middle-income countries often suffered from an unequal distribution of wealth, with a large proportion of poor people. If prolonged, the current situation might jeopardize the development of many countries. South-South cooperation required the active participation of businesses and civil society.

9. His delegation hoped that a decision would be taken at the current session to convene an international conference to review the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

10. **Mr. Baum** (Switzerland) said that, while progress had been made in United Nations operational activities for development, implementation of the 2004 triennial comprehensive policy review was still lagging. The Committee must at the 2007 Review, position the United Nations operational system in the broader

development cooperation architecture, as well as improve its responsiveness and effectiveness. His delegation concurred with the Secretary-General that United Nations development activities must be carried out in response to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible manner and in accordance with those countries' national development priorities and strategies. At the same time, development activities must be firmly anchored in the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights.

11. The unpredictability of core funding and uneven or non-existent burden-sharing among Member States made the Organization unduly vulnerable to short-term donor priorities, thus undermining the authority of the respective intergovernmental governing mechanisms. Such a situation weakened the role of the Organization and jeopardized its legitimacy. Switzerland therefore supported good multilateral donorship based on predictability and quality of funding, multi-year pledging, emphasis on core contributions, and agreements among Member States on burden-sharing. Upper middle-income developing countries, particularly net contributors, would be welcome to participate in such initiatives.

12. The General Assembly should endorse the definition of capacity development proposed by the United Nations Development Group. With regard to sector coordination mechanisms, the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies must expand their participation as a reflection of their commitment to a coherent response to national priorities. Notwithstanding such efforts, Governments and donors should ensure that the Organization was represented ex officio in order to bring to bear the Organization's technical expertise on such donor coordination mechanisms.

13. While commending efforts made over the past triennium towards gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women, he said that specific attention now needed to be given to institutional accountability mechanisms.

14. Further efforts were needed to complete the harmonization of the United Nations agencies' planning cycles and to align them with national programming instruments and planning cycles. Regrettably, too many specialized agencies remained unable to plan their activities at field level on a multi-year basis. That seriously hindered the capacity of such agencies to be part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and to contribute effectively. Specialized agencies should delegate more authority to their country representatives and use country-level multi-year programming.

15. General concerns related to environmental sustainability and the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building could be significantly alleviated by ensuring that United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and Poverty Reduction Strategies adequately reflected needs as expressed by Governments, and that the resident coordinator and United Nations country team made full use of the Organization's capacities, particularly those of the United Nations Environment Programme, to respond to the needs of developing countries for Government capacity-building.

16. The resident coordinator could enhance system-wide coherence at the country level, and must be mandated to speak and act on behalf of the United Nations country team and to carry its messages to the highest levels of government. Moreover, the resident coordinator must be given increased responsibility over the strategic positioning of the Organization, including the authority to allocate country-level resources to highest priority activities, and the responsibility to optimize the use of the technical capacity and expertise of the country team and across the regional centres of the Organization.

17. There must be a clear separation of duties between the resident coordinator and the UNDP country director. Furthermore, UNDP needed to proactively facilitate the access of Governments to other system entities able to provide qualified services, rather than providing such services itself. While the management of the resident coordinator system must be firmly anchored within UNDP, the resident coordinator should not be biased towards UNDP.

18. **Mr. Bagrodia** (India) said that the triennial comprehensive policy review presented a valuable opportunity to assess operational activities for development and make appropriate recommendations for the future work of the United Nations development system. The system urgently needed reform in terms of effectiveness and efficiency if it was to make a meaningful contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

19. The financing of the United Nations development system was fundamental to the Organization's ability to deliver effectively. With ODA showing a downward trend, there was an urgent need to make up the large shortfall in the resources required to attain the Goals. The fact that the share of core resources in the total contributions received by the United Nations system had been falling continuously was also a source of concern. The growing reliance on supplementary funding undermined the core mandates of the entities of the United Nations development system. The predictability and dependability of funding for development was another important issue. Despite the progress made, multi-year funding frameworks had not significantly improved the predictability of funding. The United Nations development entities required adequate core resources. Furthermore, the lack of full cost recovery created the false impression that the management of projects from supplementary funding was more efficient than that of regular programmes, which in turn undermined the ability of United Nations development entities to attract core funding in the long term.

20. The United Nations development system must focus on building its own capacities, in addition to those of developing countries. While training of existing staff would be ideal, the recruitment of new professional staff should not necessarily be avoided.

21. His delegation supported greater use of national execution as well as of national expertise and institutions. The United Nations development system must also make serious efforts to adapt its activities to the existing financial and technical capacities of recipient Governments and their national institutions. National ownership and leadership should be a priority.

22. India had a long-standing commitment to South-South cooperation. There was a need not only for adequate funding for such cooperation by the United Nations development entities and for triangular cooperation, but also for greater use of the experience and expertise of the South in the ongoing work of the United Nations development system. Measures supporting South-South cooperation should be mainstreamed in programmes, country-level activities and country offices. Developed countries' contributions were also important.

23. India supported the strengthening of the capacity of the United Nations development system for gender mainstreaming. While advocacy in that area was important, there was an even greater need to support developing countries' efforts to promote gender equality and empower women. Within the Organization itself, there was concern that the number of female staff at senior levels, especially in the Professional category, had significantly fallen, as had the number of female resident coordinators. Furthermore, there had been a lack of analysis of female representation from developing countries, despite the emphasis on that issue in General Assembly resolution 59/250. It was also important to focus on the transition from relief to development, especially in post-natural disaster situations.

24. Proposals for reforming the United Nations development system needed to include information on the savings achieved through reform, the impact on the reporting burdens of field offices, and the consequent improvement in delivery. In addition, proposals should display flexibility in addressing the diverse needs of developing countries and countries recovering from conflict. The ongoing reform and other reform proposals, such as those presented in the context of system-wide coherence, must demonstrate their usefulness based on those criteria.

25. **Ms. Teo** (Singapore) said that a poverty alleviation strategy that was not underpinned by sustainable economic growth could not succeed in the long run. In that sense, greater South-South cooperation could only strengthen the economies of developing countries, and the progressive removal of barriers to trade and investment would help continue that process. Singapore was a strong proponent of South-South cooperation. Having benefited from assistance shortly after its independence, it had since contributed to the training of staff from developing countries, in partnership with developed countries and international organizations. Singapore believed that there was scope for further expanding the current levels of cooperation.

26. **Ms. Zainul Abidin** (Malaysia) said that United Nations operational activities must maintain their voluntary and grant nature and their neutrality and multilateralism. A political consensus would therefore have to be reached between the developed and developing world and discussions on development issues must not be polarized along North-South lines.

27. The triennial comprehensive policy review, should deal only with those issues directly linked to United Nations operational activities for development, and not with the other issues reflected in the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment. However, the resolution on the review must include an evaluation of the approach outlined in the report of the Panel, entitled "Delivering as one" (A/61/583), as well as the lessons learned from that approach, taking into account national particularities and priorities. Those findings could then be used in the mid-term review process. In the interim, such information should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum.

28. Her delegation was concerned that the increase in non-core funding far outstripped the growth in core funding; that the share of core funding had declined in proportion to the total amount of contributions received by the United Nations system; and that overall contributions to the United Nations system for operational activities had fallen in 2006. The rapid increase in non-core funding risked jeopardizing not only the voluntary and grant nature but also the neutrality and multilateralism of United Nations operational activities. Since a rapid increase in core funding would be required to overcome that threat, she strongly urged developed countries to rescind their zero-growth policies with regard to assessed contributions to the regular budgets of specialized agencies. That would enable the United Nations system to better respond to the new demands of the United Nations agenda as well as to national plans and priorities.

29. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs should continue its efforts to build a comprehensive and sustainable financial data and reporting system. There were important differences between the way the United Nations and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development defined, classified and reported contributions to the United Nations system. Her delegation therefore encouraged those organizations to continue to work together closely in that area. Once their harmonization efforts had yielded results, the findings should be brought to the intergovernmental process for further deliberation and action, if necessary. It was important for governments to have a common standard by which to assess levels of funding.

30. The increase in capital flows between developing countries indicated the new dynamism of those countries in the global market and a healthy growth in the economies of the more advanced developing countries. However, the upward trend in South-South cooperation might be perceived as a replacement for ODA to developing countries. More needed to be done to understand the nature and dynamics of South-South cooperation. In particular, it was important to know whether the trade figures reflected an overall deepening and/or widening of economic relations among countries of the South or merely an increase in a few large items, such as trade in commodities and the transit of goods to the North. It was also necessary to assess how effective capacity-building programmes had been and to what extent they reflected the needs of the recipient countries. Another question was how triangular cooperation could go beyond the present limited conceptual framework and meaningfully address the asymmetrical power relations between the developed and developing world.

31. It was also critical to ensure clarity in the conceptual framework underpinning South-South cooperation. To that end, South-South cooperation must be driven by the countries of the South; it must not be seen as a replacement for North-South cooperation; it must not be analysed and evaluated using the same standards as those employed for North-South relations; and financial contributions from the more advanced developing countries should not be seen as ODA.

32. **Mr. Al-Hababi** (Qatar) said that the full commitment of the United Nations was essential to fulfilment of the role vested in it by the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which had pledged to strengthen the effectiveness and coordination of United Nations operational activities, and to the follow-up of that Outcome. Equally essential was its commitment to the full implementation, in consultation with Member States, of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, which set clear guidelines for the achievement of further progress in that regard.

33. The current review should identify obstacles and causes relating to any failure of implementation, as

well as determine responsibility and establish measures for getting back on track. The further proposals of the Secretary-General for strengthening the management, coordination and coherence of United Nations operational activities should also be considered, with due regard for the integrity and respective mandates of United Nations bodies. Programming could moreover be improved by making use of the relative advantages of each body and coordinating among them.

34. United Nations development assistance should be universal, impartial, multilateral and responsive to the needs of developing countries. Organization and planning at the country level should be based on national development agendas and geared to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and any other agreed targets included in national strategies. Financing should also be adequate and steady enough to be mobilized for development assistance purposes, although it was important at the same time to explore new financing mechanisms. Lastly, in view of the complex nature of development operations, non-resident United Nations entities should be involved in directing the reform process, thereby making the most of the diversity of expertise within the Organization.

35. **Ms. Gustava** (Mozambique) said that the Committee should seize the opportunity offered by the triennial comprehensive policy review to explore the best ways to reform the work of the United Nations system and improve delivery of operational activities at the country level. United Nations operations activities for development played a crucial role in addressing the development needs of developing countries worldwide. More therefore had to be done to enhance the ability of the United Nations system to support developing countries in their efforts to implement their national development programmes and strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

36. Mozambique enjoyed a sound partnership with the United Nations system at the country level. Indeed, since 1998, the United Nations system in Mozambique had taken steps to improve its level of coordination with national strategies, particularly through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Her Government welcomed the report of the Secretary General's High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence and the recommendations contained therein. The report had made an invaluable contribution to the establishment of a stronger and more coherent United Nations system which could act as a full and effective development partner at the country level.

37. The Government of Mozambique had volunteered to be one of the first eight pilot countries for the One United Nations programme, which aimed to ensure greater coherence and effectiveness of United Nations development efforts at the country level. Mechanisms had been put in place to move the pilot process forward in Mozambique based on the experience gained from UNDAF. A steering committee would shortly be established to oversee and monitor that process.

38. A joint programme would be drawn up that included specialized and non-specialized, resident and non-resident agencies that could play a role in the development process in Mozambique, particularly those that were not part of UNDAF. With the support of her Government, the United Nations family would establish a United Nations joint office in Mozambique. The main challenge was to harmonize administrative costs and procedures among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in order to reduce costs. The pilot process should maximize development results and minimize transactions costs, while ensuring a full ownership and leadership role for the Government in the areas of planning and management and in the operational field at the national and local levels. Strengthening the role of the resident coordinator would help to deliver tangible results. Furthermore, the lessons learned from the pilot process would serve as inputs to the intergovernmental process and to General Assembly decisions. The United Nations should support the exchange of experience by the pilot countries of the One United Nations programme as a whole.

39. **Ms. McLennan** (New Zealand) said that her country was a strong supporter of the United Nations development system and was highly committed to improved development effectiveness. The United Nations must strive to maintain its relevance by consistently adapting to a rapidly changing world and by continuing to deliver tangible results on the ground.

40. National ownership was a crucial component of all development activities. The United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies should increasingly align themselves with the national

priorities and plans of developing countries and use their national expertise wherever possible. While the United Nations had the technical expertise and knowledge to support the capacity development needs of developing countries, such needs should be identified and requested by the developing country partners.

41. Development interventions could be made more effective overall only through heightened coordination efforts. Her delegation wished to see a United Nations system with better internal coordination and also improved coordination with development partners, including the Bretton Woods institutions, donors, the private sector and civil society. It therefore encouraged United Nations country teams to continue their work towards "delivering as one", where appropriate.

42. Since leadership was crucial to improve coordination at the country level, the resident coordinator system should be strengthened with the appropriate authority, accountability, resources, monitoring framework and dispute resolution mechanism.

43. Her delegation fully subscribed to the need to improve the quality of aid and also expressed the desire for an effective operational system that provided value for money on the ground. Since greater predictability and dependability of financing was essential, the continuing imbalance between core and non-core resources was a matter for concern. Her delegation supported flexible and unearmarked multi-year contributions.

44. Human rights were at the core of all development policy, and fundamental rights and freedoms were threatened wherever there was poverty. Development assistance particularly needed to address the rights of the poorest and the most vulnerable. New Zealand was firmly committed to the integration of human rights and gender equality in all aspects of the work of the United Nations. Those principles should be increasingly mainstreamed within the operational activities of all United Nations agencies.

45. Her delegation attached importance to concluding deliberations on the triennial comprehensive policy review at the current session. To that end, it stood ready to work constructively with the Committee.

46. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (China) said that the efforts over the previous three years to implement General Assembly resolution 59/250 and the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome had achieved clear results: assistance activities were more tailored to national development strategies and to the Millennium Development Goals; the cost of planning and delivering assistance programmes had been reduced; and efforts to manage and share knowledge among funds and programmes had been strengthened. However, a number of shortcomings still existed within the United Nations development system, including the imbalance in the ratio of core to non-core resources; the lack of planning and coordination for national capacity-building; and the inadequate role of recipient governments in coordinating the planning and delivery of assistance.

47. His delegation hoped that the developed countries would honour their commitments so that the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNI could be achieved promptly. It was also in favour of setting timetables and creating monitoring mechanisms for the achievement of ODA targets based on the target dates for the Goals.

48. Sufficient, sustainable and predictable core resources guaranteed effective implementation of the principle of national ownership. In recent years, the share of core resources in the overall resource level had been declining in the majority of United Nations programmes, funds and agencies. That downward trend could easily compromise the multilateral, neutral and grant nature of United Nations assistance, lead to increased competition for contributions of non-core resources and increase the cost of fund management. His delegation fully endorsed the observations in the report of the Secretary-General in that regard. The funds, programmes and agencies within the United Nations development system needed to explore innovative approaches with a sense of urgency to improve the funding structure by increasing the share of core resources. At the same time, efforts should be made to minimize the negative effects of non-core resources by strengthening coordination and planning and by making flexible use of the various policy coordination tools.

49. The reform of United Nations operational activities for development should enhance the ability of the United Nations to meet the needs of recipient countries in an integrated and flexible manner. Such reform should safeguard the leadership and ownership of recipient countries and ensure the consent

and participation of the recipient governments without any conditions or fixed models. Moreover, savings from the reform should be reinvested in assistance programmes. Attention should also be given to the issue of accountability when strengthening the resident coordinator system.

50. National capacity-building should be mainstreamed into the work of the development system. In a more targeted manner, with particular focus on employing more experts from recipient countries and helping them to gain access to state-of-the-art technologies. In addition, feasible and sustainable capacity-building programmes should be formulated in the light of the specific needs and implementing capabilities of the recipient countries.

51. The increasing diversity among developing countries provided tremendous potential for South-South cooperation and it was necessary to explore new ways and means to take greater advantage of the economic complementarities among developing countries. At the same time, an enabling environment should be created for South-South cooperation by resolving practical problems resulting from inadequate financial guarantees and inefficient coordination and management mechanisms. The United Nations should identify priority areas for South-South cooperation and develop forward-looking strategic plans of action for use by developing countries. Efforts should be made to improve the capacity of the relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies for South-South cooperation, especially practical measures to enhance the role of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme. Concrete actions should also be taken to address the problem of insufficient financial resources for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system. His delegation welcomed the funding for South-South cooperation provided by developed countries under triangular cooperation. China had always been an active participant in South-South cooperation and stood ready to join other developing countries in efforts to further advance such cooperation in the future.

52. **Ms. Juul** (Norway) said that the recommendations of the 2005 World Summit for stronger system-wide coherence should be incorporated into the 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review. In addition, many of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence were relevant to the review and should be discussed. Development assistance must be increased substantially if the Millennium Development Goals were to be reached by 2015. Donors needed to fulfil their commitments, including those in the Monterrey Consensus. Norway stood ready to do its part and was trying to devote 1 per cent of GNI to ODA.

53. The quantity, quality and predictability of development assistance from the United Nations were key issues. The imbalance between core and non-core resources must be addressed. Incentives must be put in place for redirecting ODA towards core funding and predictable multi-year pledges. An efficient and accountable United Nations system would attract core financing and United Nations organizations must avoid fragmentation and competition over resources. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness should be mainstreamed into the United Nations system by including it in the review.

54. As a donor, Norway could not defend spending scarce development funds on a system which host governments found unnecessarily complicated; too many resources were spent on bureaucratic overheads instead of programmatic activities. Negotiations on the resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review should be aimed at ensuring that the United Nations remained an effective development actor. The resident coordinator system was vital to ensure a coherent and responsive United Nations at country level and the resident coordinator must be seen to represent the United Nations system as a whole. Her delegation welcomed the progress achieved in establishing system-wide performance criteria and an accountability framework for the resident coordinators. Increased ownership of the system as a whole, recruitment of resident coordinators from other agencies, and clear separation of the coordination and the operational roles of the UNDP were essential to strengthening the legitimacy of the resident coordinator. Norway supported the strengthening of the resident coordinator system by providing appropriate authority, resources and accountability, as well as a common management, programming and monitoring framework.

55. Member States had a responsibility to ensure effective intergovernmental governance that was responsive to national demands and underpinned national ownership. Norway welcomed the efforts

being made by funds and programmes and by the specialized agencies in the Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate cooperation and coherence at the country level. The Board should continue harmonization of practices and removal of structural bottlenecks. However, some issues required attention at the intergovernmental level. Measures to address them should be discussed during the negotiations on the review. The United Nations agencies should implement the recommendations of the 2004 review concerning the mainstreaming of gender equality. They should move towards concrete proposals such as gender-responsive budgeting, tracking allocations, building on lessons learned, sharing best practices, and setting up monitoring and performance criteria. The resident coordinator should ensure that gender equality and empowerment of women were mainstreamed in the Organization's activities at the country level.

56. A human-rights based approach to development would strengthen national capacities to implement international norms and standards in the area of human rights. The role of the United Nations system in implementation at the country level should be determined through agreements with national partners, in accordance with established mandates. The protection of the environment was also an integral component of sustainable development and should be recognized as such in the review.

57. Post-crisis conflict situations required concerted and rapid action. The United Nations needed to develop a coherent and effective response framework in support of national efforts and in collaboration with partners. Joint tool kits such as the Post-Conflict Needs Assessment were a welcome step forward, and the United Nations should consolidate its partnership with other actors such as the World Bank in that regard. Further efforts were needed to clarify coordination, division of labour, leadership, sequencing and prioritization. There was also a need for a flexible funding modality for the early recovery period. More attention should be given to disaster risk reduction and conflict management in a post-crisis period, and there should be a stronger focus on prevention in general.

58. Monitoring and evaluation should continue to improve and all United Nations bodies that had not yet done so should adopt the norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). United Nations organizations should enhance results-based management in the planning of programmes and projects in order to facilitate evaluation of results on the ground. A mechanism should be set up for monitoring the next review, including through time-bound targets and clear benchmarks.

59. **Mr. Amorós Núñez** (Cuba) said that the various funds, programmes and agencies of the Organization should maintain their separate identities, in view of the strengths that they had built up over the years. His Government was not in favour of adopting common management or programming frameworks on the ground. The current discussions in the General Assembly on the recommendations of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence should continue in the forum that had already been agreed, maintaining a comprehensive approach to the recommendations of the High-level Panel, as proposed by the Group of 77 and the non-aligned countries.

60. Operational activities should reflect national policies and development priorities, respecting the mandates given by Member States. Cuba viewed with concern the increasing UNDP emphasis on activities not directly related to economic and social development. UNDP should not become involved in tasks being performed by other agencies in the system.

61. His delegation was also concerned about the increase in supplementary resources earmarked for emergencies and for issues that were important to donors, while basic or regular resources were becoming scarcer. Humanitarian assistance should be provided, with the consent of the country concerned, but not to the detriment of the main purpose of the Organization's funds and programmes. Donor countries should provide the basic resources needed for operational activities in a permanent, stable and predictable manner and, in particular, without conditionalities. Supplementary resources should never be seen as a substitute for core resources. Specific funds must be allocated to support South-South cooperation, particularly technical and economic cooperation between developing countries. However, South-South cooperation should not replace North-South cooperation, and should not affect the scarce resources currently allocated for operational activities.

62. **Mr. Kumar** (Nepal) said that operational activities for development should support local

development priorities, with greater focus on local technical capacity-building. Sustainable capacity-building activities were contingent on the strengthening of national ownership and leadership of development activities. The resident coordinator system should be made more efficient and accountable. It was also important to respect the social mores and cultural sensitivities of the local people. The triennial comprehensive policy review should be geared towards strengthening constructive and broad-based development collaboration, supported by adequate and predictable funding. Long-term operational efficiency, sustainability and productive capability could be achieved by investing in development infrastructure, strengthening economic institutions and establishing a viable technological base.

63. The United Nations development system could be instrumental in accelerating and broadening South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation. A United Nations conference on South-South cooperation marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action would offer a good opportunity to expand the base of South-South cooperation.

64. **Mr. Rees** (United States of America) said that the United Nations should focus on capacity-building. Bearing in mind the World Summit Outcome, the top priority should be to help countries build and consolidate democratic institutions to promote good governance as the foundation for development and to ensure aid effectiveness in the long run. Member States should make every effort to reach the goals they had set for themselves in the Millennium Declaration. The United Nations development agencies should make special efforts, wherever possible, to support the countries that were most in need. A special cooperative focus on sub-Saharan Africa was appropriate.

65. Members must strive for greater coordination in development activities. Several countries had volunteered to work with the United Nations in undertaking "one-UN" national pilot programmes in line with the recommendations of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence. Major stakeholders, including the countries themselves, the agencies involved, the United Nations Evaluation Group and the regional commissions should play important roles in a rigorous evaluation process. The Committee's resolution on the review should focus on results so as to bring together the substance and process issues in a coherent development vision. The resolution should be clear about the Organization's objectives and expected results. It should also be clear that, in order for the agencies to be results-oriented, their resources should be linked to programme performance.

66. **Ms. Mills** (Jamaica) said that it was essential to properly assess the impact and effectiveness of the United Nations contribution to national development plans and strategies so as to enable developing countries to measure their own progress towards attaining national goals and objectives. Capacity development could be facilitated through greater utilization of expertise at the national level, in keeping with the objective of ensuring national ownership and leadership. Maintaining that focus would significantly increase the potential for reducing transaction costs.

67. Predictable, stable, long-term core funding was fundamental so that the United Nations development system could effectively discharge its responsibilities with respect to operational activities for development. The fact that core funding had been decreasing relative to non-core funding was a matter of concern. Jamaica concurred with the Secretary-General that dependence on non-core funding also risked affecting the perception of the role of the United Nations as a trusted partner of national governments. Her delegation urged Member States, in particular donor countries, to increase their non-earmarked contributions, in recognition of the need for a substantial and sustained increase in funding for operational activities for development. Jamaica also endorsed the call made in the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/253) for the improved coverage, timeliness, quality and comparability of system-wide financial data for financial reporting of operational activities for development.

68. The triennial comprehensive policy review should not be preceded or superseded by any other process unless so decided by the General Assembly. The strategic planning cycles of United Nations funds and programmes should be fully aligned with the review cycle so as to avoid unnecessary complications in discussions by the respective governance structures. There should be greater collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Peacebuilding Commission in order to ensure that long-term socio-economic recovery and development objectives of post-conflict countries were realized.

There should also be greater cooperation and coordination with the Bretton Woods institutions in the provision of development assistance, in accordance with the priorities of recipient countries. Her delegation was concerned about the tendency for the United Nations system to adopt common approaches in its response to countries adversely affected by natural disasters or conflicts. There should be no attempt to diminish the challenges faced by countries in those situations by taking the same approach in responding to very different circumstances.

69. Special attention should be given to coordination of the United Nations development system at the country level. Jamaica was concerned about the potential for diluting the development focus of the assistance provided by United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in favour of strengthening coordination mechanisms in the field. Efforts aimed at achieving system-wide coherence should focus on how existing mechanisms could be improved and maximized so as to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Guidelines and Common Country Assessments had proven particularly useful in enhancing cooperation and coordination on the ground. It was imperative to carefully deliberate on issues regarding coherence in order to ensure that the overall effectiveness of operational activities for development was not compromised.

70. The review should give further guidance on how best the United Nations development system could contribute to the strengthening of South-South cooperation as a complement to international cooperation for development. The Committee's focus on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable countries should not detract from the fact that developing countries as a whole required the support and assistance of the entire United Nations development system. The focus on socio-economic development should take into account the grave inequities that persisted among and within countries and regions.

71. **Mr. Tarragô** (Brazil) said that Brazil's experience was marked by a number of South-South cooperation initiatives in different fields, including agriculture, fiscal administration, combating HIV/AIDS, biofuels and sport, and in different regions. That fruitful exchange of knowledge and experiences was favoured by Brazil's cultural, historical, geographical and political ties that had roots in many different countries.

72. At the bilateral level, Brazil's technical cooperation was designed to contribute to national goals and consisted in the sharing of experience and expertise through the provision of consultants and technicians, the promotion of training courses, the building of professional capacity and the donation of equipment. While geared towards the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, it also incorporated the benefits of cooperation with other middle-income countries. In that regard, Brazil was open to developing partnerships with other countries of the South, including through triangular initiatives. His Government had recently concluded cooperation agreements with Angola, Burkina Faso and the Congo.

73. At the multilateral level, the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Fund was assisting in the implementation of an agricultural development project in Guinea-Bissau and a solid waste collection project in Haiti and, in cooperation with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, was seeking to provide new models for project presentation, design, administration and monitoring. A key aspect of that was better budget management through more economical methods of hiring foreign consultants. Brazil wished to continue its fruitful cooperation with multilateral agencies in third countries in the implementation of joint projects. In December 2004, Brazil and the World Bank had signed the first contract between an international financial institution and a developing country to co-finance a project in another developing country.

74. Lastly, the convening of a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation would boost international efforts to shape the boundaries and modalities of such cooperation. In that regard, his delegation welcomed Argentina's offer to host such a conference.

75. **Mr. Punkrasin** (Thailand) said that operational activities for development of the United Nations system must respond to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible and coherent manner in accordance with their national development strategies and priorities. He also emphasized the importance of aid effectiveness, results-based management and accountability, as set out in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and of coordinating

and harmonizing United Nations assistance with other development assistance. The One United Nations concept could be implemented not in its structure, but in what it could deliver to recipient countries. He recognized that the resident coordinator system had a key role to play in the functioning of the United Nations system at the country level, but stressed the importance of national ownership and leadership in national development processes.

76. Noting the dramatic increase in South-South transactions, the continual rise of regional and interregional South-South cooperation and the fact that concessional flows of South-South assistance had increased to $3 billion in 2006 (A/62/295, para. 33), he said that South-South cooperation was an effective approach to managing complex transnational development issues with a view to attaining internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

77. Thailand had been implementing South-South cooperation programmes since 1975 and had been developing its role as an emerging donor for over half a decade. In 2005, Thai ODA had reached 0.13 per cent of GNI, a level comparable to that provided by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. Thailand worked closely with its neighbours to narrow development gaps among Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members. It had provided over $10 million in bilateral technical cooperation to neighbouring countries and around $123 million for transportation projects. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) currently encompassed 13 key areas. Negotiations on a BIMSTEC Free Trade Area had begun in 2004. Thailand also shared best practices in such areas as health and management with other regions.

78. His Government attached great importance to public-private partnerships under South-South cooperation. The Mae Fah Luang Foundation was working to rehabilitate depleted forests, replace opium poppy cultivation through crop substitution schemes and eradicate drug processing, trading and consumption in the northern province of Doi Tung. It was sharing knowledge with the Government of Afghanistan, with a view to reducing opium poppy cultivation there. Thailand had also strengthened its role as an emerging donor by setting up the Thailand-UNDP Country Partnership Programme for 2007-2011.

79. South-South cooperation must not replace North-South cooperation and assistance, or be limited to relationships among States. The United Nations must promote not only cooperation among the South, but also real multilateralism, inclusive partnerships and well-coordinated action to harness resources in the South. The United Nations must act as facilitator in establishing systematic transfers of technical and financial planning for emerging donors in the South. It also had a key role to play in harmonizing and aligning development cooperation, in order to achieve accountability, coherence and maximum development results from old and new donors alike.

80. **Mr. Mishkorudny** (Belarus) said that United Nations operational activities for development were a key element in the reform of the Organization, since that reform affected the interests of all countries, particularly the programme countries. His delegation favoured rational reforms capable of realistically enhancing the capacity of the Organization to meet the challenges ahead. It also believed that the governments of the recipient countries should retain the leading role in the organization of United Nations programme activities in their countries.

81. It was advisable to take a balanced approach with regard to the introduction of uniform models of work at the country level. For example, in such countries as Belarus, where there were a small number of United Nations agencies, a "small country team" made more sense than a "one country team". At the same time, countries with economies in transition clearly needed completely different tools from those of the least developed countries.

82. Reform should not hinder the implementation of the fundamental objective of operational activities, namely development assistance. The United Nations should provide assistance to programme countries for capacity-building in the fields of human rights and good governance only when requested to do so by those countries. It was inadmissible to attempt to introduce discriminatory criteria against country recipients of international assistance based on evaluations of the effectiveness of their national economic policies, State governance and human rights systems.

83. His delegation underlined the importance of assistance to enhance energy security. Given the increasing deficit of energy resources and the threat of climate change, UNDP and other United Nations agencies should provide programme countries with the assistance required to expand their access to alternative energy sources and new technologies in that area.

84. His delegation welcomed the adoption by consensus of the UNDP strategic plan for 2008-2011. The decision of the UNDP Governing Council in that regard and the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 provided a good basis for negotiations on a new resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

85. The new resolution should retain the universal, voluntary and grant nature of operational activities, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of recipient countries in a flexible manner, and in accordance with the changing policies and priorities of those countries.

86. Economic cooperation among developing countries was a promising area whose full potential had not been realized. One way to increase such cooperation might be the establishment of a South-South unified economic database, which could facilitate contacts between developing countries on trade and investment issues. His delegation therefore requested UNDP to consider providing assistance for the creation of such a database. In order to develop South-South cooperation, it would be necessary to make more systematic and consistent use of the United Nations system, especially UNDP. The development of South-South cooperation should also be included in the regional, subregional and country programmes of UNDP.

87. **Mr. Sul** Kyung-hoon (Republic of Korea) said that the fact that the current triennial comprehensive policy review was taking place at the midway point between the adoption and the deadline for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals made it particularly meaningful. He was confident that the outcome of the review would reinvigorate efforts to realize those Goals.

88. While the increase in total funding for the United Nations system was welcome, the widening imbalance between core and non-core resources was a matter of concern. It was important to find out why donor countries were more attracted to non-core funding and explore ways of increasing the adequacy and long-term predictability of non-core and supplementary resources. Strategic planning and results-based management, along with accountability and transparency across the United Nations system, should eventually lead to increased commitments to core and regular resources.

89. The success of development efforts would depend on the extent to which developing countries' capacity was nurtured. Development capacity involved a variety of economic and social factors. The promotion of human rights and gender equality should be an indispensable part of development. Furthermore, in addition to national ownership and leadership, greater use should be made of national systems and their expertise and staff when executing development programmes.

90. The development agenda could not be implemented effectively without the full participation of women in all aspects of development. Education and equal opportunities for women were a vital condition for development. In that context, his delegation supported more vigorous implementation of a system-wide action plan on gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women. He welcomed efforts to achieve gender parity among resident coordinators.

91. The resident coordinator system was an integral part of the development process from the perspective of "Delivering as one United Nations" at the country level. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's recommendations aimed at strengthening the resident coordinator system through a more vigorous and competitive selection process, a stronger system of training and a comprehensive accountability framework (A/62/253, para. 42 (j)) and recognized the need to better delineate the roles of resident coordinator and resident representative of UNDP (ibid., para. 39).

92. Lastly, as a country emerging from development, the Republic of Korea was fully aware of the importance of South-South cooperation. Noting that the recent GDP growth rate among developing countries had exceeded the global average, that South-South trade was expanding more rapidly than other trade flows, and that capital flows between developing

countries had also grown more rapidly than North-South flows, he said that the triennial comprehensive policy review should facilitate multilateral, system-wide support for South-South and triangular cooperation.

93. **Mr. Kim** In Ryong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that South-South cooperation enabled developing countries to strengthen solidarity among themselves and achieve sustainable development through self-reliance. Efforts to promote such cooperation — such as the strategies and action programmes announced at the Asian-African Summit 2005, the second South Summit and the fourteenth Non-Aligned Movement Summit — would mitigate the adverse effects of the global economic environment and better equip developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

94. Economic cooperation among developing countries had provided new impetus to international economic relations in recent years. The United Nations should bolster developing countries' efforts to strengthen regional and interregional cooperation. His delegation supported the recommendation by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, at its fifteenth session, that a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation should be convened to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. It was also important to strengthen the role of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as a focal point for South-South cooperation; to enhance strategies and mechanisms for such cooperation within the United Nations system; to encourage the relevant United Nations entities to mainstream support for South-South and triangular cooperation in their regular activities; and to scale up international assistance for the implementation of initiatives relating to South-South cooperation.

95. For the past 10 years, and as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation, his Government, in close cooperation with the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (PGTF) and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, had been training experts from developing countries in Asia and Africa in such fields as agriculture, science, technology, water resources and small- and medium-scale hydropower.

96. **Mr. Sabri** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that South-South cooperation could be a significant complement to North-South cooperation and that South-South industrial cooperation could be particularly beneficial. The South was becoming a major player in world industry and trade. Its share of world manufacturing had almost doubled since the 1980s and its share in global trade had risen from 29 per cent in 1996 to 37 per cent in 2006. South-South trade in manufactures, meanwhile, was expanding at around 7 per cent a year.

97. Fundamental changes in global manufacturing strengthened the rationale for South-South industrial cooperation. Manufacturing had been internationalized through the relocation of labour-intensive industries, outsourcing and the use of information and communication technologies. However, while a few dynamic developing countries had emerged in the global economy, other developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, had been marginalized. South-South industrial cooperation would help ensure that the benefits of the new system of global manufacturing were shared more widely.

98. UNIDO was committed to renewing its efforts to broker the effective cooperation between developing countries, including through the establishment of Centres for South-South Industrial Cooperation to stimulate the development of mutually beneficial partnerships between the industrially more advanced developing countries and the least developed countries.

99. The first such Centre, launched in India in February 2007, would focus on six key rural- and urban-oriented industrial areas and reinforce existing South-South cooperation between UNIDO and India. The previous month, UNIDO and China had signed agreements on the establishment of a second Centre in Beijing and on the establishment in China of an international renewable energy centre to promote cooperation on hydropower, wind power and biomass technologies between China and sub-Saharan Africa in particular. The Governments of China and India were providing significant funding to those Centres as part of their commitment to ensuring that the benefits of industrial growth were spread more widely. Further Centres were envisaged in Brazil, Egypt and South Africa.

100. Highlighting two other areas of South-South cooperation that were important to his organization's mandate, he said that UNIDO was pleased to be a partner in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), which played an important role in fostering cooperation between the countries of the South and between the North and the South. UNIDO looked forward to playing an active role in TICAD IV in 2008.

101. The second area involved support to regional economic integration efforts. One such initiative was his organization's quality promotion programme with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). The programme, which had received considerable financial support from the European Union, was based on the understanding that the developing world, particularly the least developed countries, would not benefit from globalization and trade liberalization unless they had competitive exportable products. The relatively small size of WAEMU economies made it far more cost-effective to develop regional rather than national standards and accreditation systems. Working in such a way helped increase South-South cooperation, particularly in the development of supply chain systems for small and medium-sized enterprises in agro-based industries.

102. UNIDO was committed to working closely with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in order to promote South-South industrial cooperation and, in line with the guidance provided by its policymaking organs and United Nations mandates, would continue to consolidate its activities to promote South-South cooperation, with a focus on how such cooperation could benefit the least developed countries.

103. Lastly, he drew attention to a recent UNIDO publication entitled *Industrial development, trade and poverty reduction through South-South cooperation*, which could be downloaded from the UNIDO website.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.